

solles, the gentleman who was at the head of the French Translation Department. That report insisted very strongly upon the very great necessity of filling the vacancy in his branch of the Department, as the work done there was very great, and he had frequently to employ one of the best of the sessional clerks as an extra clerk for six or seven months or more of the recess. He had a great many applications—Mr. Speaker had no doubt learned what that meant by this time—for these two offices. He was quite determined that he would fill these offices with men perfectly competent. He, therefore, took some time for consideration, and came up to Ottawa for the purpose of making further enquiry. In making these appointments he endeavoured to the utmost of his ability to provide for the proper discharge of the duties of the Department. A gentleman was recommended to him by one of the old and experienced members of this House, as one perfectly competent to discharge the duties of a translator. This gentleman was represented to him as a man of marked ability indeed. After talking the matter all over, acting on his own judgment, rather than on that of the Clerk, he tried to arrange for the proper performance of the service. He put in place of Mr. David—believing it to be of very great importance that they should have an experienced translator for the translation of the Votes and Proceedings—Mr. Gingras, who was then senior French translator, immediately after Mr. Coursolles. He knew nothing of the politics of Mr. Gingras. He placed in the position rendered vacant by the promotion of Mr. Gingras, Mr. Brossoit, whom he had never seen, and who had been very highly recommended by one of the oldest and most experienced members of Parliament. Then, to the place rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. Tassé, he promoted a gentleman immediately next in rank—a gentleman of whose politics he knew absolutely nothing. Immediately after him came two young gentlemen, who had not served a very long time. These he did not promote, but he appointed to the position which remained vacant, Mr. Piton, who had been for several years sessional French translator, and had been

selected, from year to year, by Mr. Coursolles, to fill the position of extra clerk, and French translator during the recess. He (Mr. Anglin) had reason to believe that Mr. Piton was a person entirely competent to discharge the duties of that position, and he accordingly appointed him. In all that he had done, he believed that he had fairly and properly discharged his duties as Speaker. Of course, it was not of the essence of this question under consideration, whether he had, or had not, so discharged his duties. The essence of the question was whether he had a right to make those appointments. He was satisfied then that he had the proper authority to fill the appointments and the Clerk accepted these appointments, and gave effect to them. The gentlemen were put to work and remained at work two or three days when, as the Clerk subsequently informed him, he (the Clerk) received a message from the Premier directing him not to recognise any appointments made by himself since the dissolution of Parliament, or something to that effect. The Clerk at once dismissed those gentlemen. He (Mr. Anglin) felt that it was his duty then, as Speaker of this House, to take very high and strong grounds, for he thought it was one of the first duties of a Speaker to protect the independence of the House of Commons against all assaults and encroachments, and more especially when these were made by the Crown. Gentlemen who had not much experience in Parliamentary life, and who had not much studied the history of the struggles in which parliamentarians were engaged in former times might not attach much importance to the mode in which an officer of the House was appointed or dismissed, but old parliamentarians who had studied this matter, and knew the vast importance of preserving intact the rights and privileges of Parliament would be satisfied that it was the bounden duty of the Speaker not to suffer the slightest intrusion upon those rights and privileges, without the strongest possible protest on his part. It was true that, under the circumstances, he had no power, but he believed he had the authority, and he was sorry to say that he believed authority and power had been severed of late, and that power, for a time at all

**MR. ANGLIN.**